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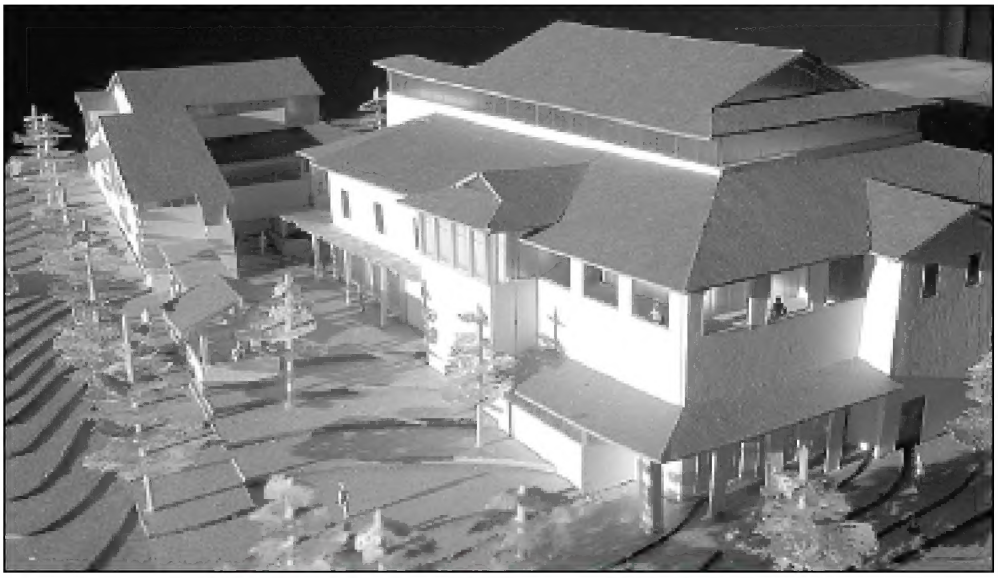
LAFAYETTE VISTAS

EVOLUTION OF A DREAM: *Update on Lafayette Library*

Designed over 40 years ago to accommodate 15,000 books, the Lafayette Library currently boasts over 59,000 books in its collection. But what began as a need to replace a library that has substantially outgrown its capacity has expanded into a vision that encompasses much more than a new building for books. Although there will be plenty of space for the collection in the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center, the architect is designing a space that will serve as a civic focal point and center of learning. While books are, of course, crucial, a library should also be a place that provides a sense of comfort and familiarity, a place where residents can stay connected with their community and a place where everyone, regardless of age, can continue to learn.

Killefer Flammang architects, winners of the City's design competition, incorporated ideas from more than a 1,000 citizens and have created an impressive design for the new library that will translate these visions into reality. Outside, the contemporary Craftsman structure of stone and wood will meander down the hill from Mt. Diablo Boulevard to First Street, embracing open air spaces, plazas and balconies. Inside, in addition to a large book and periodical collection for adults, there will be a children's library, a teen room, a tech lab, a fireplace with comfortable chairs for reading, several small conference rooms, and a large multi-purpose room for lectures, music recitals and other community events.

Because a library should actively encourage learning in addition to providing resources, Lafayette has enjoined a consortium of the Bay Area's most distinguished public institutions and non-profits to do just that. These organizations, working together, will provide learning opportunities for adults and children utilizing the state-of-the-art facility at the Lafayette Library. A dozen prestigious partners were invited to participate, and all responded with an enthusiastic "Yes!" (See the story on page two about *The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.*)



View from the corner of First Street and Golden Gate Way

The City of Lafayette continues to be extremely committed to this important project. Final conceptual plans have been embraced and approved by the City Council and Planning Commission, and substantial funds have been made available for design, land acquisition, parking, etc. The City will seek funding from every public funding source, but as in the case of American libraries historically, the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center will ultimately be the product of a major public-private initiative.

This spring, the Lafayette Community Foundation, with the support of a broad array of local organizations, will launch an ambitious but essential $11 million fundraising campaign. All Lafayette residents will have the opportunity to contribute to what is surely the most significant civic project of our generation.

Making this dream a reality will require generous contributions from throughout the community. If you are interested in learning how you can participate, please call The Lafayette Community Foundation c/o Gwenn Lennox at 284-3228.

Looking South from Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Introducing the

GLENN SEABORG LEARNING CONSORTIUM

at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center

Photo courtesy of Lawrence Berkeley Lab

In the spirit of extraordinary commitment to education, the new Lafayette Library & Learning Center will also be home to a distinguished new resource: The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium. Named in honor of Nobel Prize winner and Lafayette resident Glenn Seaborg, the Consortium will bring together a dozen of the Bay Area's most prestigious educational and cultural resources to offer programs at the new Lafayette Library & Learning Center. Through the Consortium, a wealth of collaborative learning materials, workshops, archives, exhibits, K-12 curricula, lectures, films and discovery centers will be made available to the Lafayette community, particularly its children.

This proposal to leverage the intellectual and cultural resources of twelve urban organizations for the benefit of a suburban population will be the first of its kind at any American public library. According to Diantha D. Schull, President of Libraries for the Future, "The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium is a highly important enterprise that will provide an instructive example for other communities and institutions across the nation."

"I want to express my support and enthusiasum for this visionary initiative. Thank you for the opportunity to extend the reach of the hands-on celebration of sights, sounds and sensations that is Chabot."

Alex Barnett, Executive Director
Chabot Space & Science Center

About Glenn Seaborg (1912-1999)

"There is a beauty in discovery. There is mathematics in music, a kinship of science and poetry in the description of nature, and exquisite form in a molecule. Attempts to place different disciplines in different camps are revealed as artificial in the face of the unity of knowledge. All are sustained by the philosopher, the historian, the political analyst, the economist, the scientist, the poet, the artisan, and the musician."

GLENN T. SEABORG, upon being appointed
Chancellor of the University of California, 1958

Glenn Seaborg was one of the most remarkable scientists of the 20th century and, as an advisor to ten U.S. Presidents, an influential voice on national and international policies. A Nobel Prize winner and forty-five year resident of Lafayette, Dr. Seaborg's prolific discoveries, which include plutonium and 9 other atomic elements, truly shaped the history of the world.

Dr. Seaborg's greatest legacy was his enrichment of society through the sharing of knowledge. As a distinguished scientist, beloved teacher, Chancellor of the University of California, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Director of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories, and an outspoken member of the President's National Commission on Excellence in education, Dr. Seaborg promoted learning throughout his lifetime.

Dr. Seaborg's focus on children and his dedication to learning inspired the planners of the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center to propose the creation of the Learning Consortium in Dr. Seaborg's honor. In his own words, "Whatever the expense of improving education, it is an investment in the future we must make. Excellence costs. But in the long run mediocrity costs more."

"Your ambitious vision of what a library situated in a resource-rich urban area can be resonates with the pioneering values of Dr. Seaborg."

Bruce E. Cain, Director
Institue of Governmental Studies,
University of California, Berkeley

"I commend the City of Lafayette for taking on this exciting project with such distinguished organizations!"

Dennis M. Power, CEO
Oakland Museum of California

"A model for the future in which the Lawrence Hall of Science is eager to play a role."

Elizabeth K. Stage, CEO
Lawrence Hall of Science
University of California, Berkeley

"A natural opportunity to expand Commonwealth Club's adult, youth and family programming into the East Bay."

Gloria Duffy, CEO
The Commonwealth
Club of California

"How wonderful that this world figure and longtime Lafayette resident be identified with the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium at the Lafayette Library. The honor is ours."

Joel J. Parrott, CEO
The Oakland Zoo

"The collaboration would not only bring elevated programming to Lafayette area children, but elevate our own instutions through our cooperative efforts."

Eunice Valentine, CEO
Lindsay Wildlife Museum

"The vision of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium is unlike that of any library of which we are aware. We welcome the opportunity to join you in this pioneering effort."

Jonathan Moscone, Elena Ronquillo
California Shakespeare Theater

Charter Members of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium

UC Lawrence Hall of Science
Oakland Museum of California
Chabot Space & Science Center
Commonwealth Club of California
The Oakland Zoo in Knowland Park
John Muir/Mt. Diablo Health System
Lindsay Wildlife Museum
California Shakespeare Theater
Greenbelt Alliance
John F. Kennedy University
Saint Mary's College
UC Institute of Governmental Studies

Consortium Sponsors include:

Lafayette Community Foundation
The City of Lafayette
Lafayette School District
Acalanes School District
Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation
Contra Costa County Library
Friends of Lafayette Library
Lafayette Historical Society

Beep Beep Honk Honk

Why do they call it rush hour when nothing moves? – Robin Williams

Back in 2001, to address concerns about traffic on Moraga Road, the Council appointed the Moraga Road Transportation Advisory Committee (MORTRAC). MORTRAC is a committee made up of volunteer representatives of the City Council, the Planning Commission, the Circulation Commission, small and large businesses, school interests, senior interests and at-large citizens. Over the course of the last two years, MORTRAC held a number of public meetings during a three phase process designed to identify specific problems, develop and evaluate solutions and recommend an implementation strategy.

The Problems

Congestion:

- Heavy traffic congestion in the mornings and afternoons make it difficult to turn off of and/or onto Moraga Rd., particularly left turns across traffic.
- Local schools contribute significantly to traffic congestion.
- An increase of more than 30% in "trips-per-household" over the last few years, and growth in Moraga have also made traffic conditions worse.

Safety:

- Significant speeding and lack of enforcement results in accidents and unsafe turning to and from side streets and private driveways.
- Lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities make Moraga Rd. unsafe, particularly for children. Existing road conditions, including poor lighting, limited visibility, rough surfaces and poor drainage could also be improved.

Solution Options

Having identified these problems, MORTRAC considered a range of options – from simple maintenance programs to significant physical improvements. MORTRAC debated the costs and benefits of each option and committee representatives also met with Lafayette and Stanley School administrators to discuss ideas that could be employed at the schools.

MORTRAC then developed two lists. The first described a number of interesting but ultimately infeasible solutions. For instance, building a toll lane on Moraga Rd. was determined not to be viable because of significant legal, financial, environmental, and engineering challenges. Other traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps, stop signs and additional signals had major safety and emergency response implications. Suggestions to change the flow of traffic and restrict turns were deemed unacceptable because they would adversely impact access to businesses and shift the problems to neighboring streets.

The second list included more practical solutions, including:

A. Ask the Lafayette School District to consider program(s) modifing locations, habits, and patterns of drop-off/pick-up activities at Stanley and Lafayette School. (Estimated Cost: Ranges from $250 for a sign to hundreds of thousands of dollars to create a satellite parking area.)

B. Increase enforcement of speed laws. (Estimated Cost: $25,000 for a radar display device; unknown costs for photo cameras and additional enforcement resources.)

C. Construct pedestrian paths along both sides of Moraga Rd. (Estimated Cost: $1,000,000)

D. Improve bicycle & pedestrian safety on First Street. (Estimated Cost: $20,000 to modify curb ramps; $100,000 to widen sidewalk on School St.)

E. Negotiate with Moraga to use the yet to be installed Palos Colorados traffic signal to meter traffic on Moraga Rd. (Estimated Cost: None to the City)

F. Implement intersection improvements at Moraga Rd./Brook-School Streets. (Estimated Cost: $10,000 for two electronic signs. $50,000 for intersection sidewalk improvements)

G. Implement an on-going vegetation management program to improve walkway clearance and sight distances at side streets, driveways, sidewalks and around curves on Moraga Rd. (Estimated Cost: Unknown ongoing operation expenses)

The order in which solutions are implemented will depend on availability of funds, availability of staff, environmental review requirements, and the complexity of planning and engineering processes. MORTRAC will develop an implementation plan and present it to the City Council in March 2004. There will also be opportunities for Commission and public input as more details are developed for each recommendation

A more detailed report of the MORTRAC process and proposed solutions can be found on the City's website: ***www.lovelafayette.org.***

What's New?

- In August '03, the City's new **tree protection ordinance** became effective requiring a City permit for the removal of certain native trees, such as the Giant Valley Oak, Madrone, Buckeye and Black Walnut. The complete tree ordinance can be viewed on the City's web page under "Zoning Regulations".
- In late September '03, after 3 years of public hearings, the Planning Commission approved the **largest subdivision in 15 years** — 21-lots known as Hidden Oaks. East of Pleasant Hill Rd. in the Saranap area, this single family subdivision will have Leland Drive as its sole access. A public walking trail through this future neighborhood will allow all area residents to enjoy the beautiful grove of oaks adjacent to Reliez Creek.
- The **Reliez Valley Walkway** extension —Silver Dell to Gloria Terrace — is finished. Residents appear pleased with the results and folks can now run, bike and walk safely.
- The **new stoplight** at Pleasant Hill Road and Condit may take some getting used to, but it is doing its intended job of slowing traffic on Pleasant Hill Road, which handles approximately 21,500 cars daily. This light has caused some confusion because it is programmed differently than others around town, resting on red until cars approach instead of cycling on a timed schedule.
- The **ballfield grand opening** will be held on Saturday, March 6th, 2004 at 10:00 am, rain or shine. The Mayor will announce the winner of the "Name the Park" contest and there will be food and fun for everyone.

NAME THE PARK

Last October, the Lafayette Vistas announced a naming contest for the newly renovated park at 711 St. Mary's Rd. 94 entries were submitted to the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. Several entries were variations of the top five or duplicates sent after the name was first submitted. The nine-member Commission narrowed the list to five names. Now it's time for you to vote for your top choice.

The name with the most votes will be submitted to the City Council for approval. The winning name will be announced in the City's Spring *VISTAS*, Spring Recreation Brochure and of course at the Grand Opening of the Park, which will be March 6, 2004 at 10:00 am.

RULES: You must be a Lafayette resident to vote. Only one vote per person. Voting deadline is February 21, 2004.

You can vote on-line at **www.lovelafayette.org.** On-line voting is limited to one vote per computer. Other votes can be mailed to Lafayette Parks, Trails & Recreation Department, 500 St. Mary's Rd. Lafayette CA 94549 or faxed to 925-284-1549.

The submitted names were limited to one of the following categories: natural features, cultural features, geographic features, historic people, families or events related to Lafayette.

Name	*Submitted by:*	*Comments:*
☐ Buckeye Fields	Ruth Kaiser-Barrere	After the buckeye trees growing on the site
☐ Oak Hill Park	John Otto	After the many oaks growing on the site
☐ Saclan Fields	Thomas F. Black	After the native Americans who lived in Lafayette
☐ St. Mary's Rd. Park	Sally Bellenger	After the road on which the site is located
☐ Topsy Fields	Julie Taylor	After the beloved horse owned by Lafayette's first teacher

AROUND TOWN

Town Hall Theatre

Box Office: 283-1557 or www.thtc.org
Info: 283-3728 or www.gcplayers.org

Tickets now available at The Lafayette Bookstore.

2/5–2/29: 12TH NIGHT – Shakespeare's much loved comedy of shipwreck and lovesickness, mistaken identity and punctured pride unfolds in this production set in the speakeasies of the 1920s. Co-produced with Butterfield 8 and featuring the New Urban Dance Company, Viola's wittiness, Malvolio's pomposity and the drunken revelries of Sir Toby Belch and his sidekick all become clear in the context of jazz, booze, and prohibition.

Gold Coast Chamber Players

2/21: MARIMBAS, BOWS AND BEAUS – Classical & Marimba Music features guest artists from Germany; violinist Hardy Wenzel and marimba virtuoso Babette Haag. Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr. Lafayette. Tickets: Town Hall Box Office: 283-1557; Info: 283-3728 or **www.gcplayers.org**

CITY DIRECTORY

For Council Members call: **284-1968**

Council Members

Erling Horn	**Mayor**
Carl Anduri	**Vice Mayor**
Carol Federighi	**Council Member**
Ivor Samson	**Council Member**
Don Tatzin	**Council Member**

Messages to **all** Council Members:
cityhall@lovelafayette.org

Administration

General Reception and	**284-1968**
Steven Falk, City Manager	**Fax: 284-3169**
Tracy Robinson, Admin. Srv. Dir.	**299-3227**
Gonzalo Silva, Financial Srv. Mgr.	**299-3213**
Joanne Robbins, City Clerk	**299-3210**

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Ann Merideth, Director	**299-3218**
Tony Coe, Engineering Srv. Mgr.	**284-1951**
Niroop Srivatsa, Planning Srv. Mgr.	**284-1976**
Ron Lefler, Public Works Srv. Mgr.	**299-3214**
P.W. Hotline (to report problems)	**299-3259**

If you observe illegal dumping in creeks & storm drains or accidental spills on roads, call Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Division 646-2286.

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Shanks, Analyst	**299-3216**
	Or 299-3215

Parks, Trails and Recreation **284-2232**

Jennifer Russell, Director	
Yvonne Ozorio, Senior Services	**284-5050**
Teen Programs	**284-5815**

Police Services

Emergency: 24 Hours	**911**
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	**284-5010**
Police Business Office:	**283-3680**

Anonymous Tipline, Traffic Enforcement, Suggestions & LEARN (Laf. Emergency Action Response Network), 299-3232 X 2205

Fax	**284-3169**
Address	**3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210** **Lafayette, CA 94549-1968**
Website:	**www.ci.lafayette.ca.us**

E-MAIL: Council/staff members can be reached via e-mail using this address format:
First Initial + Last Name @lovelafayette.org
Example: SFalk@lovelafayette.org

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CITY OF LAFAYETTE PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION

PUBLIC DESIGN PROCESS – NORTH END OF THE LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY PARK

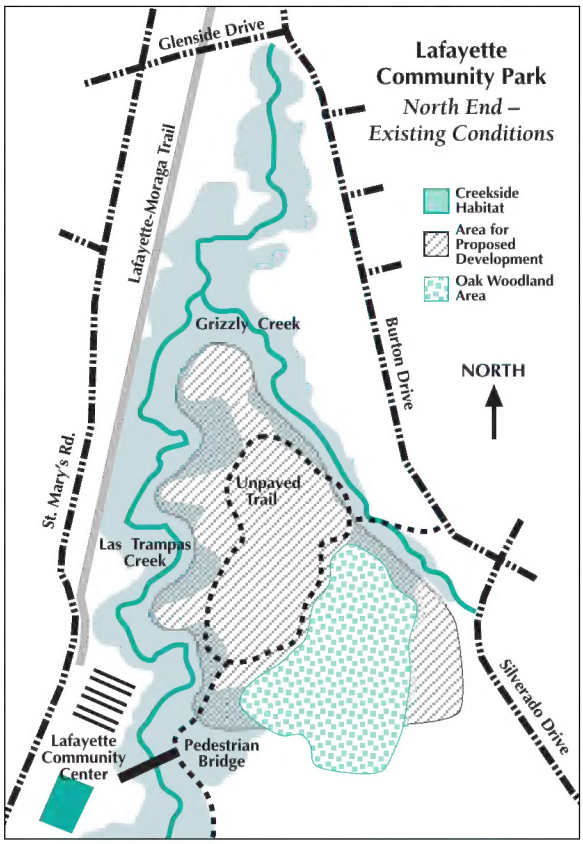
Community Questionnaire (see back of insert)

The City of Lafayette is soliciting input from the community to develop the best possible plan for the North End of the Lafayette Community Park. The Park is located at 480 St. Mary's Rd. Current access to the North End is via a pedestrian bridge from the Lafayette Community Center and via a pedestrian entrance on Silverado Drive.

We value your input. Please complete the questionnaire on the back no later than February 27, then mail to the address below, fax it to 925-284-1549, or hand deliver it to the office at 500 St. Mary's Rd.

Background

In January 1988, the City Council adopted a Master Plan for Lafayette Community Park. This plan resulted from a ten-year process involving considerable input and participation by the community. The program, goals and general layout for the park, including the North End, are outlined in the plan. Using the Master Plan, a Design Development Plan for Lafayette Community Park was completed in 1991 further defining the design of the park including materials, phasing and costs. Construction of the South End of the park has been recently completed and includes two sports fields, a group picnic area, tot lot, a restroom and parking lot. The next phase of park development will focus on the North End.



North End Description and Guidelines from the 1988 ADOPTED Master Plan

The North End is to be developed as a public park with large un-programmed spaces suitable to a wide variety of activities. Lying between two riparian (creek) zones and an oak woodland, the North Meadow is probably the most pleasant and ecologically rich of the large open spaces on the park site. The quality of the environment is of some importance to people involved in informal sports activities (e.g. frisbee, bocce ball, horseshoes), picnicking, and nature study, as well as large group activities such as festivals and day camps. When cleared of existing brush and young trees, the North Meadow will be a very large flat open space, with a clearly articulated boundary composed of the Riparian Zone and the Oak Woodland. The main trail, accessible to service vehicles, circles the North Meadow. A secondary nature trail follows the top of the creek banks and descends to Las Trampas Creek at one point. The overall North End design shows 8 acres of turf (with overlays of informal sport activities), 1 group picnic area, 10 family picnic areas and 1 restroom.

For more specific information on the Lafayette Community Park Master Plan and the north end of the Lafayette Community Park, access the link from the City of Lafayette website – **www.lovelafayette.org** or check out a copy of the Master Plan at the Parks, Trails & Recreation Office, 500 St. Mary's Rd.

Place Stamp Here

Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
c/o Jennifer Russell; Parks, Trails and Recreation Director
500 St. Mary's Rd.
Lafayette, CA 94549

CITY OF LAFAYETTE PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION

Questionnaire – NORTH END of the LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY PARK

We value your input. Please complete this questionnaire no later than February 27, 2004 and return it by mail to: Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission, c/o Jennifer Russell, Parks, Trails and Recreation Director, 500 St. Mary's Rd, Lafayette, CA 94549, or fax to 925-284-1549. You can also hand deliver it to the office at 500 St. Mary's Rd.

1. **To what extent do you agree with the 1988 Master Plan description/guidelines** *(as described on the front of this insert)* **for development of the North End of the park?**

   (Circle the number that best represents your opinion)

   Agree 5 4 3 2 1 Disagree

2. **Select the top five park activities you feel should be in the North End?**

   (Rank 1 to 5 with 1 being most important)

   Activities included in the 1988 Adopted Master Plan

   ___ Family Picnic Areas (1-2 tables)
   ___ Group Picnic Area (20 tables/100+ people)
   ___ Large lawn area (meadow) for informal uses
   ___ Nature Trails
   ___ Horseshoe Pits
   ___ Bocce Ball

   Other activities not included in the Master Plan

   ___ Dog Exercise Area
   ___ Petanque Courts (French version of bocce)
   ___ Children's Play Equipment Areas
   ___ Outdoor Amphitheater
   ___ Sand Volleyball Courts
   ___ Paddle Tennis (Easier, family/senior version of tennis)
   ___ Other _____

   _____

   ___ ***Leave land as is***

3. **Have you walked through the North End of the Community Park?**

   ☐ Frequently, weekly or more often
   ☐ Several times a year
   ☐ Once or twice
   ☐ Never
   ☐ Not sure where Park is located.

4. **How close do you live to the Lafayette Community Park?**

   ☐ Adjacent to the Park
   ☐ Within 3 miles *(Note: Park is approximately 3 miles from downtown Lafayette)*
   ☐ Over 3 miles

5. **Please list any other ideas and/or concerns you have regarding North End development.**

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

6. **What is your age?**

   ☐ Under 18 ☐ 19-24 ☐ 25-34
   ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ Over 55

7. **Would you be interested in participating in two follow-up workshops this Spring?**

   ☐ Yes ☐ No

   If yes, please print clearly the following information:

   Name _____

   Address _____

   _____

   Day Phone _____

   Eve Phone _____

   E-mail _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. If you have any questions regarding this questionnaire or the Lafayette Community Park North End, please contact Jennifer Russell. Voicemail: (925) 299-3251 or e-mail: **jrussell@lovelafayette.org.**